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Senators Johnson and Bishop Provide Oakland County with Ice Storm Disaster Relief *Johnson appropriates money, Bishop sponsors resolution*

April 29, 2003—Following Governor Granholm's denial for Oakland County disaster relief aid caused by an ice storm in early April, Senator Shirley Johnson (R-Royal Oak) and Senator Mike Bishop (R-Rochester) have worked together to provide \$2.2 million in needed funding for debris cleanup and electrical restoration through a supplemental appropriation measure and senate resolution.

"While the budget does not revolve around pending disasters, it is designed to assist residents and municipalities for what can be classified as a 'once in every ten year' storm," said Johnson. "Work crews traveled from throughout the state and Midwest to help with the disaster clean-up. Some families were living without power for up to 12 days."

The storm, which occurred April 4th, left in its wake 3 deaths, approximately 402,000 residents without power and by some accounts \$40 million in damage. Crews arrived from Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Kentucky, West Virginia and Wisconsin to assist with the clean-up.

The ice storm was declared by DTE Energy the worst storm since 1976, with Oakland County being the hardest hit. Adding to the difficulty in cleaning up the disaster was the immediate winter thaw which happened the day following the ice storm.

Senator Johnson appropriated \$2.2 million in a supplemental budget bill which passed out of Senate Appropriations today. The legislation will make the necessary disaster relief available immediately to communities in Oakland County.

Following the initial success of the supplemental, Senator Bishop introduced a Senate Resolution today aimed at encouraging the Governor to support the disaster relief for Oakland County.